

**GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**October 8, 1999**  
**Bernhard Centre, Connable Board Room (Board of Trustees)**

**MINUTES**

Representatives Present: James Cawthorne (Paper and Printing Sciences and Engineering), Trisha Basford (Chemistry), Patricia Clark (Biology), Doris Dirks (History), Mark Frederick (Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology), Jessica Gardner (Music), Jessica Grace (History), Nancy Greer-Williams (Communication), Kurt Hayden (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), Matt Hollrah (English), So Mei Khoo (Finance and Commercial Law), Tim Kuehnlein (Political Science), Mary Lucas (Communication), Clive Pursehouse (Philosophy), Stanislav Rumega (Physics), Sean Smitham (Psychology), Laurentiu Tobos (Electrical and Computer Engineering), Dale Werkema (Geology)

Guests: Julie Scrivener (The Graduate College), Dr. Michael Pritchard (The Graduate College), Amy Nelson (Student Affairs)

**I.** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

**II.** Introduction of new members

**III.** Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of the September 10 GSAC meeting were approved.

**IV. Report from the Chair**

**A.** Meeting with Dean Jorgens: Discussion focused on a quote in the Kalamazoo Gazette concerning TA workloads and responsibilities.

**B.** Meeting with Dr. Floyd: There was discussion about the recent review of Dr. Floyd by the Board of Trustees. Congratulations were extended by Dirks on behalf of the GSAC for the accolades that Dr. Floyd received. Dirks raised the issue about graduate assistants/associates having to pay tuition for undergraduate courses. Dr. Floyd referred the matter to Dr. Pritchard. Discussion among GSAC

members centered on the idea that waivers should apply for graduate assistants/associates taking undergraduate courses, regardless of whether they relate to particular program requirements. Discussion between Dirks and Floyd continued with a consideration about credit hour requirements for entry to the Recreation Center without additional fees being assessed. The matter was referred to Dr. Powell. GSAC members expressed considerable interest in a six credit hour minimum for full time status in this regard. The UCC issue regarding limitations on printing quantity was addressed between Dirks and Floyd. Dirks was reassured that the university did not have a policy in this regard. She was referred to Dr. Wright for clarification on this matter. Dirks invited Dr. Floyd to address GSAC in the near future, and a dinner invitation was extended to GSAC by Dr. Floyd. The dinner will be scheduled for winter semester. A number of issues were raised by GSAC members during the Chair's report. Werkema raised concerns about sufficient notification being granted to graduate assistants/associates before assignments are made in the fall semester. Hollrah asked for justification about undergraduates teaching English 100. Clark expressed concern about pay inequities for graduate assistants/associates between departments. Kuehnlein asked about the usefulness of having sections taught on Thursday. Dirks suggested that such issues may be discussed by GSAC at future meetings and further inquiries may be made with the appropriate authorities at a later time.

**C. NAGPS:** Dirks confirmed that GSAC approved membership to the association. An announcement was made about the association's leadership conference in Columbus, Ohio from November 18-21, 1999. The deadline for early registration is October 15, 1999. GSAC members were encouraged to attend. GSAC is providing transportation. Dirks and Cawthorne were the only members to express interest in attending. Anyone interested in attending was encouraged to e-mail Dirks.

**D.** Dirks attended a meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee. Issues discussed revolved around making the "student centered research university" mandate a reality by improving student services around campus.

## **V. University Council and Sub-Committee Reports**

**A. Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs Council:** Clark - No report

**B. Budget and Finance:** The 1998-99 audit was discussed. Dirks - Floyd made a presentation. Continuing education tuition was raised in order to make the program self-sufficient.

**C. Campus Planning:** Werkema - Discussion centered on combining University Budget and Planning Councils, the effectiveness of the busing system, parking as it relates to master plan and freshman and sophomore driving privileges. An announcement was made that work was to begin soon at Lee Baker Farm.

**D. Faculty Senate:** Dirks - It was announced that Campus Planning and Budget were combined. Concern was expressed by Dirks and Engblom that there were no provisions for student representation on new councils, including Technical and Operations Council. Amendments were passed to include undergraduate and graduate student representation on new Faculty Senate Councils.

**E. Graduate Awards and Fellowship:** Hsieh - Meeting forthcoming.

**F. Graduate Studies:** Dirks - The issue of probation for graduate students was discussed with the idea of exploring how necessary it is to include all graduate course history for returning graduate students.

**G. Regional Education Council:** Hayden - No report

**H.** Research Policies Council: Basford - Dr. Pritchard mentioned that the intellectual property issue is still being debated.

**I.** NCA Re-Accreditation: Frederick - Progress is being made on the University's self-evaluation report.

GFAC - Cawthorne

GSAC and Organization Budgets

The budget for GSAC was approved. Funding allocations for the Sociology undergraduate student association (\$1,906), History Graduate Student Organization (\$724), and Political Science Graduate Student Association (\$1,979.60) were approved.

## **VI. Old Business**

**A.** Dirks thanked those volunteers who helped host the CommUniverCity tailgate party: Nancy Greer-Williams, Jay Cawthorne and Kurt Hayden. The event and football game were a smashing success.

**B.** Dr. Pritchard mentioned the unfortunate misquote about the provost search the Kalamazoo Gazette. He reiterated that there is no existing list of candidates.

**C.** There are five WSA senate positions for the Graduate College.

**D.** The WSA is negotiating with National City to provide better banking services to students.

**E.** The Calendar/Handbook finally hit students mailboxes today.

**VII.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.